

Senator Slap, Representative Elliot, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee:

My name is Lily Forand and I am from West Hartford, Connecticut. I am the director of External Affairs for UConn's Undergraduate Student Government. I'm writing to you to express my strong support for **Raised Bill No. 5033, AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF FOOD-INSECURE STUDENTS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

Reports from UConn's 2020 study on food insecurity show that 38% of students at the University scored as either having low or very low food security. One survey question that was part of this study asked if students ever eat less than they felt they should because there wasn't enough money for food...and 25% said yes. Some may chalk this up to just part of the "college struggle," but this goes beyond the occasional 99 cent cup of noodles. UConn students I work with - from Stamford to Storrs and every campus in between - expressed deep concern about their peers (and their own) ability to eat enough this year. On-campus students often lack variety and nutrition in meals offered to them. Off-campus students lack affordable options and sufficient programming to aid them. Branch campus students lack any options, and often are stuck eating fast food in their cars.

70% of in-state UConn graduates will go on to live and work in the state of Connecticut. We pride ourselves on our cutting edge research, our basketball teams, and most importantly our student body. These are the future leaders of the state: future doctors and lawyers, entrepreneurs and advocates. If UConn wants to be the premiere University it is on track to becoming, and wants to tout what is truly an exceptional student body, then UConn also can't leave these students and future change-makers hungry.

This is where **Raised Bill No. 5033** can come in. With another chance to survey the student body and an urging from the state to "amend any existing or establish new services and programs to address the needs of food-insecure students," UConn is forced to act. Our concerns can be heard and our needs can at least begin to be addressed.

I urge you to vote favorably on this bill. Please don't let the future of this state go hungry today.

Sincerely,

Lily Forand

UConn Undergraduate Student Government, External Affairs Committee
externalaffairs@usg.uconn.edu